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Man shot in incident with police indicted on several charges

A Paintsville Herald Staff Report

A Magoffin County man who was shot during an incident with Paintsville Police in April was indicted on several felony charges on July 17.

Two separate indictments were returned against Shawn Gayheart, 37, of Falcon Road, Salyersville.

The first indictment charges Gayheart with possession of a handgun by a convicted felon for allegedly possessing a Jennings-brand 9mm handgun on April 25 after having previously been convicted of a felony in Floyd Circuit

Court.

In the second indictment, Gayheart is charged with two counts of third-degree assault (police officer) and first-degree persistent felony offender (enhancement), both felonies, along with third-degree fleeing or evading police (on foot), resisting arrest and menacing, all misdemeanors.

The indictment alleges that on April 25, Gayheart caused or attempted to cause physical injury to Paintsville police officer Jason Crigger and former city officer Michael Bell,

See INDICTED, Page 9A

Johnson County Health Department terminates director's employment

By Mycca Decker News Editor

The Johnson County Health Department Board voted on July 20 to terminate the employment of Health Department Director Ezalee Pigman following a hearing.

Board Chairman Joel Salyer called the meeting to order before board members appointed Jane McClure to record the minutes.

Pigman's attorney, Mickey McGuire, opened the hearing by outlining Pigman's background in health care administration and arguing that his management style re-

flected the standards he followed throughout his career.

"Mr. Pigman has 10 years experience in health administration," McGuire said. "He never had a problem with management or with employees at any time."

McGuire said Pigman previously worked for Pikeville Medical Center and Appalachian Regional Healthcare, where employees were expected to follow established policies and procedures.

"When he got here at Johnson County Health Department, he found

See JCHD, Page 5A



Poison Oak
Clyde Pack

Happy trails to you

Editor's note: This is Clyde Pack's farewell column for The Paintsville Herald. We thank him for his many years of service to the newspaper and its readers.

I was talking with my son, Todd, the other day, trying to remember when I started writing this column. I remember he was still in college, so it must have been around 1986.

That's 40 years, and 40 years is a long time to do anything. That's why I've decided it's time to rest.

This column grew out of a little cartoon I started drawing in 1983 called "Poison Oak." Readers would send me their old-time cures and superstitions, and if I drew a cartoon about one, I'd send them \$5. I got some doozies, too. They claimed you could cure jaundice by drinking tea made from the scrapings of a cow's horn and that sleeping with scissors under your pillow would cure a headache.

Honestly, I always suspected some of these people made up cures just to win \$5, but that's OK. I always got a kick out of the postcards and letters, and I loved drawing the

See PACK, Page 2A

Scary Sweet Sodas opens storefront in Paintsville

By Mycca Decker News Editor

After building a following with a soda truck, Scary Sweet Sodas has opened a storefront at 863 N. U.S. 23 in Paintsville.

Owner Rhonda Thompson launched the soda truck in July 2025 before opening the brick-and-mortar location in February. The shop serves dirty sodas, coffee, loaded Alani drinks, loaded Red Bulls and a lunch menu.

Dirty sodas are soft drinks mixed with flavored syrups, cream and

other ingredients to create different flavor combinations.

Thompson said the idea for the business came after she began making dirty sodas at home.

"I was inspired to open a dirty soda shop because I had been seeing TikToks of people out west making dirty sodas, so I started making my own at home and they were so good that I decided that everyone should get the chance to experience a dirty soda," Thompson said.

Opening her own business also gave Thompson the flexibility she wanted for her family.

"I wanted to become a business owner because I wanted to make my own schedule," she said. "I have worked since I was 16 years old and have always worked schedules

See SODAS, Page 9A



Paintsville Herald photo submitted by Rhonda Thompson

Scary Sweet Sodas owner Rhonda Thompson stands at the business's new storefront at 863 N. U.S. 23 in Paintsville.

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